said Legislature contained, shall prevent said city of Wilmington from exercising any municipal rights and powers in keeping the streets of said city in an orderly and clean condition, nor from removing therefrom any and all dirt, waste, or other casual obstructions to said streets, nor from the performance of any act or thing in the preservation of the condition of the streets or the health of the said city which may be rendered necessary and urgent by any epidemic or the sudden and unforeseen acts of nature or the elements; and it shall be lawful for, and authority Powers of aldermen is hereby given to said board of aldermen of said city of Wilmington to take over, assume, and perform any of the sanitary work within said city under contract, arrangement, or agreement with the board of health of New Hanover County for any stipulated term or period, and to pay for the same out of the city's funds, and provide any and all necessary means and machinery for the purpose, whenever such arrangement or agreement shall, in the joint opinion of the two boards, better promote the efficiency of the work and the interests and welfare of said city.

WATER AND SEWERAGE.

SEC. 62. The board of aldermen shall have authority to extend, Mains and pipes. construct, maintain, change the location of, or discontinue the water mains and water pipes connected with its present system of water-works, and by ordinance shall have authority to regulate and control the introduction, distribution, and use of water in the said city, and fix the rate at which the same shall be furnished to Water rates. consumers, and prescribe the time of payment, and may grant a rebate for payment of such rates within a designated time, and Collection of rates. provide for the collection of all rents, rates, forfeitures, or emoluments from the operation of the water-works system and require the payment in advance of the water rates for water furnished in or to any building, place, or premises, and, after five days notice, Water cut off for may cause the water to be shut off from any building, place, or nonpayment. premises on account of the nonpayment of said rates or rent, and said premises, building, or place need not be furnished with water until the arrears, with interest thereon, and the expense of cutting off and reintroducing the water supply shall have been fully paid; and to prescribe penalties against any person who shall interfere Penalties for interwith the water supply of any building, place, or premises or who ference with water-works. shall turn on the water in or to any building, place, or premises after the same shall have been cut off and before payment of said arrears. They may require the owners of real property upon Enforcement of which residences or other buildings are located abutting upon the connection. streets in which any water mains are located, or within a reasonable distance thereof, to connect said residences or other buildings with such water mains under such rules and regulations and upon such conditions as said board shall by ordinance fix and establish,